

## Message Text

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14

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-13 EUR-12 /087 W

----- 121434

O 131044Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1937

AMCONSUL HONG KONG NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 2452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS, BM

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BURMESE SHIP

REF: HONG KONG 8169

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MOFA CONSULAR DIVISION DIRECTOR U SEIN MAUNG AND BRIEFED HIM ON SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL.

2. U SEIN MAUNG EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE AT IDEA OF BRINGING REFUGEES TO RANGOON AND SAID GUB CONSUL GENERAL IN HONG KONG HAD NOT MENTIONED THIS EVEN THOUGH MFA HAS HAD FREQUENT AND VERY RECENT CONTACT WITH HIM. WHEN ASKED IF THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, U SEIN MAUNG SAID IT WOULD BE "ABSOLUTELY IMPRACTICAL." COMMENT: IN VIEW OF GUB'S FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH HANOI AND OF FORTHCOMING VISIT TO RANGOON (PROBABLY NEXT WEEK) OF RANKING DRV DELEGATION, GUB IS MOST UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT REFUGEES IN RANGOON.)

3. U SEIN MAUNG SAID MOFA HAS BEEN CONSIDERING MATTER URGENTLY BUT IS STILL AT A LOSS ABOUT WHAT TO DO. IN ADDITION TO POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING REFUGEES TO RANGOON  
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(WHICH, HE REPEATED, EVEN WITHOUT CHECKING WITH HIS

SUPERIORS, HE WAS SURE WAS "IMPOSSIBLE"), HE LISTED  
ALTERNATIVES AS:

A. LEAVE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG -- HKG HAS BEEN  
ADAMANT IN REFUSING TO AGREE TO THIS, AND ACCORDING TO  
GUB'S INFORMATION, IS LIKELY TO REMAIN SO.

B. RETURN REFUGEES TO VIET-NAM -- GUB HAS ALREADY  
BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DRV ABOUT THIS, HE SAID, BUT DRV HAD  
NOT RESPONDED AT ALL AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO.

C. TAKE REFUGEES ELSEWHERE, TO PORT WHERE THEY  
COULD STAY UNTIL RESETTLED -- THIS WOULD "VERY DIFFICULT"  
SINCE AVA NEEDS TO DISCHARGE CARGO IN HONG KONG, BUT  
MIGHT BE ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE.

4. WITH REGARD TO SUBPARA C ABOVE, U SEIN MAUNG ASKED  
EMBOFF IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE REFUGEES TO SUBIC  
BAY OR GUAM, OR IF USG COULD PERSUADE JAPANESE TO ACCEPT  
THEM TEMPORARILY. EMBOFF AGREED TO REPORT QUERY TO  
DEPARTMENT AND REQUEST GUIDANCE.

5. IN CLOSING, U SEIN MAUNG STRESSED GUB'S DISAPPOINT-  
MENT THAT HUMANITARIAN ACT IS COSTING THEM SO MUCH TROUBLE  
AND MONEY AND REQUESTED URGENT ASSISTANCE OF USG IN RELIEV-  
ING GUB OF THIS REFUGEE BURDEN. EMBOFF NOTED COMPLEXITIES  
AND INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF PROBLEM BUT ASSURED HIM WE  
WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD TO BE HELPFUL.

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE.  
OSBORN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976RANGOO02452  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760269-0362  
**From:** RANGOON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760764/aaaacecv.tel  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ORM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 HONG KONG 8169  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BURMESE SHIP  
**TAGS:** SREF, VS, BM  
**To:** STATE HONG KONG  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006